

Ruth Kirby

“She fights her client’s corner really hard, distils the most important issues and knows what the judge is looking for. She’s very, very quick on her feet and so well experienced that she knows what to push for.”

Chambers & Partners 2018

Experience

Year of Call: 1994

Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Dispute Resolution

- Collaborative Law
- Mediation

Education

University College Cork, Ireland BCL

London School of Economics, LLM Employment and Personal Injuries

London Metropolitan University, CPE Constitutional and Land Law

Inns of Court School of Law, BL

BL (Irl) Kings Inns, Dublin 2004.

Qualified Collaborative Lawyer

Qualified Family and Commercial Mediator

Languages

Working knowledge of French and Irish

Profile

Ruth has practised exclusively in family law for nearly 20 years. The breadth of her practice is reflected in the reported cases in which she has been involved. The bulk of her work remains in the Family Division, including Court of Protection work. Ruth deals with all aspects of private and public family law including domestic and international abduction and stranding; wardship and the Inherent Jurisdiction; complex family disputes concerning children; and care proceedings and adoption. She has particular experience in radicalisation public law cases and in representing very religiously-observant families in private law disputes.



Having dual jurisdictional qualifications, Ruth also acts as an expert witness in Irish Family Law cases and has rights of audience before the Irish courts.

Ruth has lectured for the London Safeguarding Children's Board and for the Counter Terrorism Unit (SO15) as well as giving in-house lectures for 4pb. She has also lectured at Gresham College; in commercial and academic institutes; and for the Family Law Bar Association. Her academic lecturing included five years as a lecturer in Human Rights law at the University of London.

Outside of work Ruth enjoys tennis, spinning, film, wine, music, family and watching rugby.

Memberships

Affiliate Member of Resolution

FLBA

ALC

Directories

Experienced family and Court of Protection practitioner who has expertise in sensitive matters. She is praised for the strength of her advocacy and for the tenacity she shows on behalf of her clients in court. Her expertise includes the representation of very high-profile families, and she is proficient in cases concerning international issues.

Strengths: "Clients love her warmth, personality and grit."

Chambers & Partners 2020

'Is a tenacious advocate who fights hard for clients.'

Legal 500, 2020

Experienced family and Court of Protection practitioner who has expertise in sensitive matters. She is praised for the strength of her advocacy and for the tenacity she shows on behalf of her clients in court. Her expertise includes the representation of very religiously observant families, and she is proficient in cases concerning radicalisation and international issues.

Strengths: "A real fighter and a feisty advocate, who is someone you'd want on your side in court." "She is exceptionally bright and very on the ball."

Chambers & Partners 2019

'Superbly prepared.'

Legal 500, 2019

Experienced family and Court of Protection practitioner who has expertise in sensitive matters. She is praised for the strength of her advocacy and for the tenacity she shows on behalf of her client in court. Her expertise includes wardship, radicalisation and international issues.

Strengths: "She fights her client's corner really hard, distils the most important issues and knows what the judge is looking for. She's very, very quick on her feet and so well experienced that she knows what to push for."

Chambers & Partners 2018

Experienced family and Court of Protection practitioner who has expertise in sensitive matters. She is praised for the strength of her advocacy and for the tenacity she shows on behalf of her client in court.

Strengths: "Quick on her feet and fantastic at client care. She's always best in a fight; she sees the client's interests and goes for it."

Chambers & Partners 2017

Cases

12/11/2019	PQ v RS & Others (Legal Parenthood: Written Consent)	Dorothea Gartland Ruth Kirby	[2019] EWFC 65
12/04/2019	MB v TB (Art 13 Alleged Risk of Oppressive Litigation) (2019)	Paul Hepher Ruth Kirby	[2019] EWHC 1019 (Fam)
19/07/2018	A Local Authority v (1) A Mother (2) A Father (3) A, B, C, D & E (By their Children's guardian) (2018)	Sam King QC Ruth Kirby Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 1841 (Fam)
06/06/2018	Re IM sub nom Secretary of State for the Home Department v (1) LG (2) IM (3) JM (2018)	Ruth Kirby Chris Barnes	
10/05/2018	Re J (Children) (2018)	Ruth Kirby Michael Edwards	[2018] EWCA Civ 1372
13/11/2017	A Local Authority v M & 5 Ors (2017)	Ruth Kirby Private: Zoe Taylor	[2017] EWHC 2851 (Fam)
06/03/2017	Re SU and SA (Children) (2017)	Ruth Kirby	[2017] EWHC 441 (Fam)
12/10/2016	X (Number 3 : Division of Religious Festivals) (2016)	Ruth Kirby	[2016] EWFC B91
25/08/2016	F v (1) M (2) C (By Her Children's Guardian) (2016)	Ruth Kirby	
01/07/2016	A Local Authority v M & 5 Ors (2016)	Ruth Kirby Private: Zoe Taylor	[2016] EWHC 1599 (Fam)
09/05/2015	X (Number 2 : Orthodox Schools) (2015)	Ruth Kirby	EWFC B237
27/01/2015	Re M (Republic of Ireland) (Child's Objections) (Joinder of Children as Parties to Appeal) [2015]	Christopher Hames QC Ruth Kirby Dorothea Gartland	[2015] 2 FLR 1074; [2015] EWCA Civ 26
02/04/2013	SK v (1) HD (2) SD (3) UD (4) MD (5) FD (2013)	Ruth Kirby Hassan Khan	[2013] EWHC 796 (Fam); [2014] Fam Law 22
28/11/2011	J v J (Relinquishment of Jurisdiction) (2011)	Henry Setright QC Ruth Kirby Michael Gratton	[2012] 1 FLR 1259 : [2012] Fam Law 399; [2011] EWHC 3255 (Fam)
13/10/2011	C (Care: Contact)	Ruth Kirby Michael Edwards	[2012] 2 FCR 325; [2011] EWCA Civ 1774
21/06/2011	A v P (Habitual Residence)	Ruth Kirby	[2012] 1 FLR 125; [2011] EWHC 1530 (Fam)
25/05/2010	Re J (A Child) (2010)	Ruth Kirby	[2010] EWCA Civ 946

10/07/2009	Re C (Children) (2009)	Ruth Kirby	[2009] EWCA Civ 959; (2010) 1 FLR 895
18/05/2009	Re Stedman [2009]	Ruth Kirby	[2009] EWHC 935 (Fam); [2009] 2 FLR 852
11/02/2009	Re H (Abduction) [2009]	Teertha Gupta QC Mark Jarman Ruth Kirby	[2009] 2 FLR 1513; [2009] EWHC 1735 (Fam)
31/07/2006	Susan Wilkinson V (1) Celia Kitzinger (2) Attorney-General (Respondents) & Lord Chancellor (Intervener) (2006)	Ruth Kirby	[2006] EWHC 2022 (Fam); (2007) 1 FLR 295 : (2006) HRLR 36 : (2007) UKHRR 164 : Times, August 21, 2006
27/02/2006	Re U (Care Proceedings: Criminal Conviction: Refusal to give Evidence) (2006)	Ruth Kirby	[2006] EWHC 372 (Fam); (2006) 2 FLR 690
16/12/2005	Re K sub nom A Local Authority v N & Ors (2005)	Ruth Kirby	[2005] EWHC 2956 (Fam); (2007) 1 FLR 399
21/09/2004	Re S (Children) (2004)	Ruth Kirby	[2004] EWCA Civ 1397; (2005) 1 FLR 469